

## Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-06 CU-04 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 HEW-06 SMI-01 LOC-01 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9795

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC (JWG MEETINGS), PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: JOINT WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE: PRESS  
RELEASE

FOLLOWING IS AGREED PRESS RELEASE TO BE ISSUED MORNING OF  
OCTOBER 28 ON BEHALF OF JOINT EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN WORKING  
GROUP ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE AFTER ITS SECOND SESSION  
HELD OCTOBER 24-27, 1974, IN CAIRO:

CAIRO OCTOBER 28.

1. THE JOINT EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE HELD ITS SECOND SESSION FROM OCTOBER 24  
THROUGH 27 IN CAIRO. THE WORKING GROUP MET UNDER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. HASSAN ISMAIL, RECTOR OF CAIRO  
UNIVERSITY, WHO LED THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. THE AMERICAN  
DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF  
STATE WILLIAM K. HITCHCOCK.

2. THE JOINT WORKING GROUP IS ONE OF FOUR ORGANIZED  
TO IMPLEMENT THE JUNE 14, 1974, STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES  
OF COOPERATION ISSUED AFTER THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTS  
SADAT AND NIXON IN CAIRO. THE OTHER WORKING GROUPS  
WILL BE MEETING DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO DEVELOP  
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PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMIC AND

FINANCIAL COOPERATION; TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT; AND MEDICAL COOPERATION.

3. THE JOINT CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP, IN THE COURSE OF A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS AND IDEAS DESIGNED TO EXPAND THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, REACHED AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT EXCHANGE PROJECTS.

4. AS ITS FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS, THE JOINT WORKING GROUP REVIEWED THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES ON MAY 21, 1962 AND REAFFIRMED THIS AGREEMENT AS AN EXCELLENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CORDIAL AND HARMONIOUS CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN PEOPLE.

5. TOWARD THIS END, THE AMERICAN DELEGATION ANNOUNCED AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF EXCHANGES IN WHICH EGYPTIAN SPECIALISTS IN VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS WOULD VISIT THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS AGREED, ALSO, TO ARRANGE VISITS BY SEVERAL AMERICAN EXPERTS IN THESE FIELDS IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS PROPOSED BY THE JOINT WORKING GROUP AND DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH CLOSER COOPERATION AT ALL LEVELS. THESE VISITS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE ONE BEING PREPARED FOR A GROUP OF TEN EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO OBSERVE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESSES.

6. PROMINENT AMONG THE PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE JOINT WORKING GROUP IS ONE IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL ASSIST IN AN EXPANSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH TEACHING IN EGYPT. FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF AN AMERICAN EXPERT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND BASED ON CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AIN SHAMS FACULTY, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT INITIALLY FIVE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO SERVE AT AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY.

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7. ANOTHER IMPORTANT PROJECT IN THE CULTURAL FIELD APPROVED BY THE WORKING GROUP IS THE PLAN TO SEND AN EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES TO STUDY THE VARIOUS TYPES OF CENTERS FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS THERE IN THE FURTHERANCE OF EGYPTIAN PLANS FOR THE EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A CENTER ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER CAIRO OPERA HOUSE.

8. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PLANS DISCUSSED BY THE WORKING GROUP WAS THE SUBJECT OF HOW EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN EDUCATORS MIGHT ARRANGE TO REVIEW SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT AN UP-TO-DATE PICTURE OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WOULD BE PRESENTED SO THAT BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES COULD START AMONG THE CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

9. IN THE CULTURAL FIELD, DISCUSSION ALSO CENTERED ON HOW EXCHANGE VISITS MIGHT PROMOTE BETTER APPRECIATION OF CULTURAL AND DRAMATIC PRESENTATIONS AS WELL AS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND MUSEUM ACTIVITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION A PROPOSAL TO ORGANIZE THE HOLDING OF A DRAMA WORKSHOP IN CAIRO, WHICH WOULD ALSO DEAL WITH CHILDREN'S THEATER, WAS APPROVED AS PART OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

10. THE JOINT WORKING GROUP BELIEVES THAT THE RESULTS OF THE DELIBERATIONS AT ITS SECOND SESSION IN CAIRO WILL PROMOTE BETTER COMMUNICATION AND CLOSER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES. THE EXPANSION OF EXCHANGE VISITS FUNDED BY THE UNITED STATES WAS RECOGNIZED AS A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

11. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE WOULD BE HELD IN MAY 1975 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF THE VARIOUS PROJECTS AGREED UPON AT THIS SESSION.  
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